

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

TOPIC Hungarian Rifle Regiment in Keszthely

25X1A

EVALUATION 25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT prior to 1 January 1951

DATE OBTAINED 25X1X

DATE PREPARED 25 July 1951

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - Standard Manpower Questionnaire

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. Prior to 1 January 1951, a Hungarian rifle regiment was quartered in the former Festetich Castle which is located in the northwestern sector of Keszthely (Y 4/V 40). The two-story castle consists of a northern wing, 30 to 35 meters long; a central section, 70 to 80 meters long; and a southern wing, 45 to 50 meters long. In addition to the castle, the billeting area comprised a new building, about 30x8 meters, housing the regimental headquarters, an old and a new stable building, a garage with a workshop, and a small fuel dump.

2. About 15 October 1950, the regiment was allegedly transferred from Marcali (Y 4/A 68) to Keszthely. Its subordination was unknown. The regimental headquarters included Captain Karoly Szabo, acting commander, who was said to go frequently to an office in Papa; Senior Lieutenant Gali (fnu); Senior Lieutenant Ferenc Molnar, political officer; Senior Lieutenant Ferenc Desk, supply officer; and Senior Lieutenant Bela Venczel, commanding officer of the regimental headquarters units. (1)

3. Under the regimental headquarters were a signal platoon, a mortar platoon, and a heavy AA machine gun platoon. Each platoon was made up of 30 to 40 men. There were also three battalions of soldiers wearing green service color. During the period from 24 to 26 October 1950, about 550 recruits reported for active duty, about 65 percent of whom were members of the 1930 class, and 35 percent members of the 1929 class. About 60 percent of the recruits came from the Vas and Sopron Comitates. (2)

4. Materiel observed by source included model M-48 Soviet 7.62-mm rifles, model M-48 Soviet 7.62-mm light machine guns, model M-48 Soviet 7.62-mm Maxim heavy machine guns, mortars of about 80 mm, 2 jeeps, 1x3-ton Gaba truck, and 15 x 1.5-ton trucks. One 1.5-ton truck and another 1.5-ton truck

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From 25 to 30 riding horses, 50 to 60 draft horses, and an undetermined number of horse-drawn vehicles were also seen there.

5. The heavy AA machine gun platoon, which was directly assigned to the regimental headquarters, and was, together with the signal platoon and the mortar platoon, quartered on the first floor of the northern wing of the castle. The heavy AA machine gun platoon was commanded by Junior Lieutenant Karoly Thurzo, consisted of 1 NCO and 27 EM

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25X1X and was equipped with two 12.7-mm heavy AA machine guns. [REDACTED]
 25X1X [REDACTED] this platoon, had completed basic infantry training
 and participated in only one subcaliber firing practice. (3)

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6. 25X1X [REDACTED] A private first
 class was paid 26 forints, a corporal 32 forints, and a staff lance
 corporal 38 forints. An NCO was paid 650 forints, a junior lieutenant
 850 to 900 forints, and a lieutenant 1,200 forints per month. All men
 were required to subscribe to a government peace loan with the lowest
 subscription being 300 forints, which was deducted in ten monthly
 installments.

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7. The mortar platoon [REDACTED] was commanded by
 Junior Lieutenant Tibor Gerebics. It was equipped with two or three
 120-mm mortars with rubber tires, which were pulled by 1.5-ton trucks.

25X1X 8. [REDACTED] registered for the draft in the Korona Hotel in Szentgotthard (Y 3/C 45) on 20 September 1950. About 80 men from the vicinity of Szentgotthard reported for registration. About 60 percent of them were members of the 1930 class and the others members of the 1929 class. Only five men were rejected as unfit and none was deferred. The recruits were ordered to report for active duty at an assembly point in Szomathely (P 48/C 78) on 24 October 1950. About 500 recruits arrived there, 30 of whom were sent to Keszthely, 50 to Marcali, and 80 to the border guard unit in Nyirbator (R 48/K 83). (4)

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Comments.

(1) An infantry unit was observed in Marcali in September 1950, and a
 25X1X motorized artillery regiment and an infantry unit in Papa. [REDACTED]

(2) The strength and composition of the regimental units indicate that the
 regiment is in the process of being activated.

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(3)

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(4) The report confirms previous information on the induction of members
 of the 1930 class. [REDACTED]

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